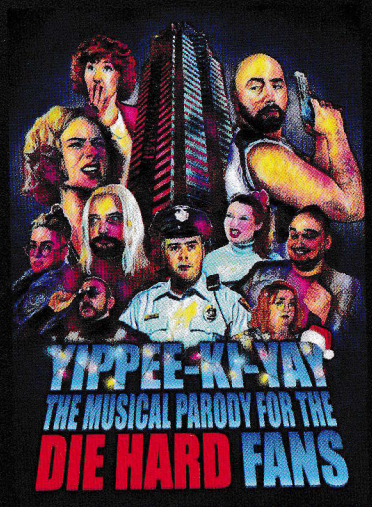
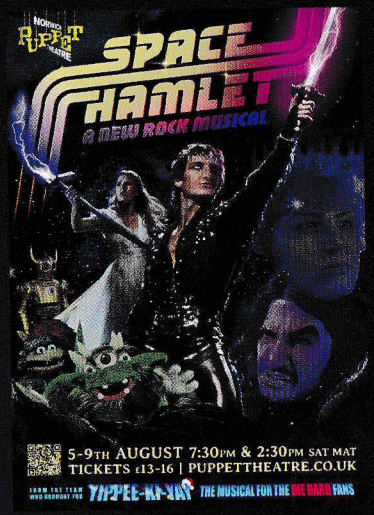
SPACE
HAMLET
A NEW ROCK MUSICAL

OPEN DOOR THEATRE



YIPPEE-KI-YAY: THE MUSICAL PARODY FOR THE DIE HARD FANS (2023)


NORWICH PUPPET THEATRE
SPACE HAMLET
A NEW ROCK MUSICAL
5-9TH AUGUST 7:30PM & 2:30PM SAT MAT
TICKETS £13-16 | PUPPETTHEATRE.CO.UK
FROM THE TEAM WHO BROUGHT YOU YIPPEE-KI-YAY THE MUSICAL FOR THE DIE HARD FANS

SPACE HAMLET A NEW ROCK MUSICAL (2025)

Open Door Theatre was founded in 2022 by a small, passionate team dedicated to new musicals, especially ones written by one of our creative directors, Daniel Sturman.

After the tremendous success of our debut production, **Yippee-ki-Yay: The Musical Parody for the Die Hard Fans**, which sold out in 2023, we eagerly returned to work on a project we were excited to develop - **Space Hamlet**. A show that had been in the works even before Yippee-Ki-Yay was even a twinkle in our eye.

To bring this vision to life, we expanded our team, welcoming **Elle Overvoore** and **Ray Tempesta** on board. After navigating a lot of paperwork, Open Door Theatre Productions officially became a registered charity this year.

Our aim is to enhance public education in the dramatic arts through the development, production, and promotion of both new and existing musical theatre works.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the cast, production team, venues, crew, long suffering partners, friends, family, and our amazing audiences for supporting us in our mission of creating new and original shows.

@OpenDoorTheatre

HELLO THERE!

Welcome, and thank you for joining us for the premiere of Space Hamlet! I know it's always a leap of faith to support a new musical, so your trust in our production means the world.

Having been with this project for many years now, I've watched it blossom into the joyous, silly, and earnest musical you'll experience tonight, thanks to the masterful work of writers Dan and RC. However, the true magic happens when our incredibly talented cast step onto the stage. They've truly brought this universe to life, mastering new skills and all the challenges I've thrown at them, from stage combat and puppetry to constant character changes whilst singing, acting and learning new material — simultaneously!

We hope you have as much fun watching Space Hamlet as we had creating it. We are absolutely delighted to finally bring this show to the stage. If you enjoy the performance, please spread the word to your friends and family. If not, well, I'll have to set the puppets on you!

April Nash

April Nash, Director

A WORD FROM OUR WRITERS

DANIEL STURMAN Writer and Producer

The show you are going to watch tonight represents the culmination of five years of writing, rewriting, table reading, and all manner of creative evolution. What began as a fringe-style four-actor romp has gradually transformed into what we believe is a well-honed two-act, thirty-song musical featuring a talented and very hard-working cast of eight, playing a total of thirty human and puppet roles.

Our vision from the outset was to write the rock musical version of Hamlet that Ziggy-era Bowie could have written with a little help from Dr. Who and Jim Henson.

I hope we have achieved that lofty ambition and got you laughing and clapping along the way. Thank you so much, and have a fantastic night at the theater!

RC STAAB Writer and Producer

For over 16 years, Daniel Sturman and I have collaborated on new works of musical theatre. Our partnership began with **Zombie Wedding**, which premiered in New York City before traveling to the Gorleston Pavilion.

As often happens when collaborators live an ocean apart, we've each worked on other projects—mine include **How the Westons Won** and **The Diamond as Big as the Ritz**, both produced off-Broadway. You can read more about these shows and my travel adventures at **www.rcstaab.com**.

When Daniel proposed a musical mashup of Hamlet and Star Wars, I immediately said yes. Daniel is the architect of our ship of state; I help chart its course. But Space Hamlet would still be in dry dock without Open Door Theatre, whose vision and craftsmanship—especially in building these extraordinary puppets—have launched us into the universe. Full speed ahead—hopefully to London, New York City, and beyond.

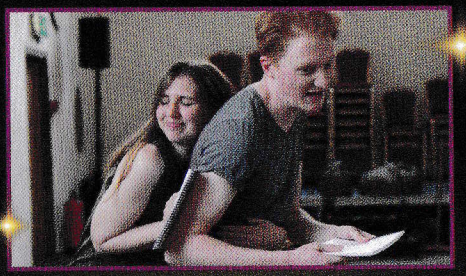
MATTHEW RHODES

Musical Director

Working on a new musical is both a brilliant opportunity and a daunting one.

You're handed some pieces of paper covered in squiggles, and tasked with turning them into entertaining theatre—without the cast having the slightest idea of what it's supposed to sound like.

But that's the thrill of new writing: shaping something from nothing, with no recordings to reference or idols to imitate. It's about collaborating with the whole team, agreeing, and often disagreeing, on directions and gradually bringing those words and squiggles to life. I'm so proud of what we've accomplished and hope you enjoy the wacky worlds of the Denmark system.



ACT ONE

On the floating space palace of Denmark-5, handyman **Horatio** repairs **Guildenbot**, and discovers a hidden message from the deceased **King Ham** for his son **Hamlet**. Horatio hopes it will guide the hot-headed prince.

In the throne room, the new **King Claudius** celebrates **Laertes**, the son of **Polonius**, before he joins the Viking Navy. Hamlets defiance creates tension with Claudius and his new wife, Hamlets mother, **Queen Gertrude**. Hamlet, angry and frustrated, privately yearns for freedom and makes plans to run away.

As Polonius sees off Laertes, reminding him of Danish duelling traditions, he also forbids the **love-struck Ophelia** from courting Hamlet, much to her dismay.

Hamlet's ship request is interrupted by Horatio and Guildenbot, who play the hologram of King Ham, revealing Claudius murdered him with a space snake. Though warned against vengeance, Hamlet interprets this as a lack of faith and vows to kill his uncle.

In the throne room, Claudius and Polonius are on a call with Norwegian Emperor **Fortinbras**, and reignite the war. Polonius happily reminds Claudius that, as king, he must go to the front lines and fight. Concerned for his own safety, Claudius resolves to seek guidance from the fates called **the Nornir**.

Hamlet storms into the armoury in a fit of rage. Horatio calmly trains Hamlet to control his anger rather than fight in fury. During this measured instruction, Hamlet's meditation technique unexpectedly reveals his telekinetic abilities. Convinced Hamlet can now succeed, Horatio allows him to search for Claudius. Meanwhile, Gertrude observes Hamlet's training and, fearing his intent to become a warrior, sends Ophelia to him.

In the temple, Hamlet eavesdrops as the Nornirs reveal Claudius will be slain by a warrior. Ophelia's entrance interrupts Hamlet's plan for revenge, leading to their breakup. Debating his path, Hamlet overhears Polonius' need for a DJ at the coronation and offers a showcase instead.

Claudius feels downcast about the front line. During the coronation, Hamlet plays his father's message. Gertrude interrupts, revealing she knew of Claudius's role. As Hamlet's anger escalates, he kills Polonius by mistake, believing him to be Claudius eavesdropping, giving Claudius the perfect opportunity to send Hamlet away to the front line in his place.

ACT TWO

Horatio and Guildenbot escort Hamlet towards the front lines in Claudius's place. As they discuss a new adventure in outer space, a Norwegian spacecraft attacks. They crash-land on Denmark-3, where scrappers trick Hamlet into the gladiator pits.

Ophelia descends into madness after her father's murder, contemplating suicide and lunacy. Claudius delights in Polonius's elimination and Hamlet's dispatch. Gertrude implores Claudius to end the war, and reveals Laertes return who seeks revenge for Polonius's death, prompting Claudius to admit Hamlet's guilt and propose assisting Laertes in a duel.

Trapped in the pit, King Hamlet's ghost appears, and desiring more than revenge for his son, admits his own mistake of not knowing when to lay down the sword. A monster awakens, but Hamlet shows mercy, extracts his father's sword, and finally escapes. The Space Snake that killed his father attacks, but upon its death, Hamlet is caught in a tractor beam.

Before Ophelia is able to take her own life, Gertrude intervenes, encouraging creativity and revealing her own political rise. Inspired, Ophelia sets off. As Claudius struggles to fulfil his promise, as Hamlet's whereabouts are unknown, Laertes goes to retrieve his weapon. Gertrude swiftly shuts him in the airlock, and sends him into the void of space.

Hamlet finds himself imprisoned aboard a Norwegian ship where Emperor Fortinbras proposes holding him as a guarantee for peace. Hamlet suggests a more advantageous arrangement, which Fortinbras enthusiastically accepts.

Hamlet returns and confronts Claudius about his father's murder. Claudius feigns ignorance. Gertrude, noticing Hamlet's transformation, urges Claudius to duel him. Ophelia enters suddenly and challenges Hamlet instead, which he has to accept.

During the fight, Claudius poisons the winner's cup. Gertrude realising, snatches and drains it, falling immediately. Hamlet rushes to her. Ophelia lunges and unintentionally strikes Gertrude, who dies. Hamlet, showing profound empathy, forgives Ophelia.

Hamlet informs Claudius of his impending custody to ensure peace. Claudius, feigning pride, crowns Hamlet, then fatally stabs him. In his last breath, Hamlet stands and kills Claudius in return. Horatio and Fortinbras arrive, too late to save their prince.

SPACE HAMLET

A NEW ROCK MUSICAL

Nic Gordon

Hamlet

Nic (he/him) is a graphic designer and illustrator who has been performing since he was 7. Originally from Derby, he moved to Norwich in 2016 to study illustration at NUA. Since then he has been involved with a variety of theatre groups across Norfolk, most recently playing Anthony in Sweeney Todd (Threshold Theatre Company).

Nic performs in drag all over East Anglia as **Jester Mirage**, enjoying combining his musical theatre side with his love of making costumes, props and puppets.

Since last summer Nic has also started learning aerial silks, on his endless mission to collect **All The Skills.** He is very excited to be working with Open Door Theatre for the first time on a show that combines his love of Sci-fi, puppets and camp!

SPACE HAMLET

A NEW ROCK MUSICAL

Amy Beven

Horatio | Polonius | Others

A graduate of Fourth Monkey Actor Training Company, Amy (she/her) is delighted to be rejoining the musical theatre world after a couple of years singing with the acoustic rock band **Same Old Story** and performing in the plays, Comic Potential (Sewell Barn Theatre) and Fantastic Mr Fox (Maddermarket Theatre).

Amy was thrilled to work with Open Door Theatre on their first musical, **Yippee-Ki-Yay: The Musical for the *Die Hard* fans**, taking on multiple roles, costumes, accents, and time itself as she ran from one scene to another. You would have thought she'd learnt her lesson, but no!

As much as she is thrilled to be starring in multiple roles again, she has little time to breathe, let alone change characters, and would ask for both patience and a much appreciated pint of [Insert Any Ale Here] at the bar after the show!

@amybeven

SPACE HAMLET
A NEW ROCK MUSICAL

Lucas Fox

Claudius | Ragg | Others

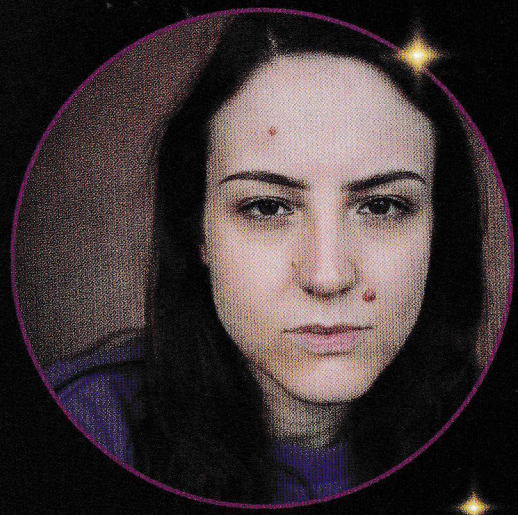
Lucas (he/him) is a Norfolk-based actor and recent graduate of the University of East Anglia, where he rekindled his love for performance whilst studying Biological Science.

A proud member of the National Youth Theatre, Lucas has a strong background in both musical theatre and devised work, with recent roles including Grantaire in Les Misérables (Norwich Theatre Royal), Jamie in The Last Five Years (UEA DMTS), and Peter in Wasp at the Camden Fringe (Camden People's Theatre). He's also appeared in Spotlights: The Musical (The Other Palace) and has played Doody in Grease (UofC, Canada).

Lucas is passionate about character-driven storytelling, and blending comedy and sincerity whether on stage or screen. Space Hamlet marks his first venture into Shakespeare-in-space territory - and he's having an absolute blast.

@foxytrot02

SPACE HAMLET
A NEW ROCK MUSICAL



Lauren Bryant

Gertrude | Bone | Others

Lauren (she/her) is a Norwich based performer having trained at Fourth Monkey Actor Training Company and Rose Bruford.

Lauren is most often found performing as her drag king alter ego Will Power. She co-hosts the largest queer cabaret in East Anglia, **'Now! That's What I Call... Drag!"** which originated in 2022.

Lauren is also co-producer of adult pantomime company **Now! That's Panto!** which enters its third year of touring in 2026. She also co-produces LGBTQIA+ theatre company **Now! That's Productions!** which earlier in 2025 saw her become the first AFAB actor in the UK to perform the iconic role of Hedwig in Hedwig and the Angry Inch and also become one of only a handful of actors globally to play both Hedwig and Yitzhak.

Lauren is thrilled to be originating the role of Gertrude in Space Hamlet and she looks forward to playing the sassiest of queens.

@lauren_bryant_ | @willpower.drag

Shem Jacobs

King Ham | Others

Shem (they/them) is a Norwich-based actor and voice actor. They studied at UEA and are a lover of stage combat or a goofy gag. They are very excited to be in their first musical.

They may be recognised from Wind in the Willows (2024) with Burnt Coffee theatre, as a regular for The Foul Players interactive murder mysteries, and as the voice for the children's Audio Guide at Norwich Castle.

Shem recently directed for The Maddermarket Theatre's 2025 playwriting competition and was assistant director for Fantastic Mr Fox also at the Maddermarket Theatre in 2024.

@shem.jacobs64

SPACE HAMLET A NEW ROCK MUSICAL

Ruby Bardwell-Dix

Ophelia | Others

Ruby (she/they) is an actor based in Norfolk, with a passion for musical theatre and Shakespeare. Ruby studied Theatre Arts at St Mary's University Twickenham and has starred in theatre, film and television projects.

After a few years of working as a baker, Ruby returned to the world of performing full-time and has been either singing or acting non-stop since 2021. Some of their favourite roles include Veronica in 'God Of Carnage', singing as part of The Lionheart Trio in 'Betty Blue Eyes', covering for the role of Maria in 'The Sound Of Music' at the Theatre Royal Norwich, playing Mercutio in 'Romeo & Juliet', Henry Bolingbroke in 'Richard II', mutirolling in Burnt Coffee's touring production of 'The Wind In The Willows' and many more.

They were proud to appear in documentary 'Forced Out', as well as in a number of award winning short films. 'SPACE HAMLET' will be the first time Ruby is originating a role and they are so excited to show this version of Ophelia to the world.

@rubybardwelldix

SPACE HAMLET
A NEW ROCK MUSICAL

Elle Overvoorde

Layertes | Others

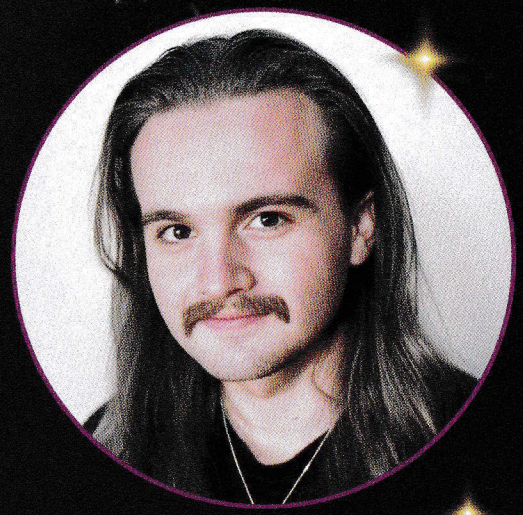
Elle (She/her) has a life-long love of Shakespeare, singing and silliness.

After a short stint at RADA studying Devising Theatre she took four successful productions to the Edinburgh Fringe, the last of which was a two woman production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' 2017 (No Friends Theatre Company).

After a bit of a break Elle returned to musical theatre in the new **Yippee-Ki-Yay: The Musical for the *Die Hard* fans** (Open Door Theatre) as the villainous Hannah Grüber.

Last year she graced the stage as Beggar Woman in Sweeny Todd at the Norwich Playhouse (Threshold Theatre Company) and Avis in 'On Monday Next' at the Norwich Puppet Theatre (Pockthorpe Players).

SPACE HAMLET
A NEW ROCK MUSICAL



Acer Smith

Guildenbot | Fortinbras | Others

Since moving to the Norwich at the age of 5, Acer (they/them) became fully immersed in music immediately.

After studying percussion under Joby Burgess, Acer was a category audition finalist for BBC Young Musician of the Year in 2020. They were also a member of Aldeburgh Young Musicians for nine years, where they developed their skills as a percussionist and pianist.

Day to day, Acer is the Performing Artist in Residence at Norwich High School for Girls. They have had a large involvement within the local theatre scene for a number of years as an MD and Pit Musician, and is venturing out on stage for their second time ever as part of this brilliant show!

PRODUCTION TEAM

A huge heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this show possible.

Daniel Sturman
Writer | Producer | Design | Puppets

RC Staab
Writer | Producer

April Nash
Director | Producer | Design | Puppets

Matthew Rhodes
Musical Director

Acer Smith
Orchestrations and Performance Tracks | Technical Design

Jo Myers
Costume Design

Alex Green
Fight Choreography

Elle Overvoorde
Executive Producer | Puppets

Ray Tempesta
Executive Producer

Productions like these wouldn't be possible without all our amazing volenteers

BACKSTAGE TEAM

Colin Nicol
Stage Manager

Charly Nash
Dresser | Puppet Manager

Jack Rudd
Technical Support

Dave Myers
Microphone Hire

Now That's What I call Panto!
Technical hire

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Andreas Laust
Photography | Videography

Echo Youth Theatre
Rehearsal Venue

Norwich Puppet Theatre

Tina Warner
Marketing Support

Peter Chapman
Props & Materials Sourcing

OPEN DOOR THEATRE

PROUDLY PRESENT THE RETURN
OF THEIR SELL-OUT SHOW

YIPPEE-KI-YAY
THE MUSICAL PARODY FOR THE
DIE HARD FANS

WELCOME TO THE PARTY PALS!

AUDITIONS: 30TH AUGUST 2025

@OpenDoorTheatre

CHRISTMAS HAS COME EARLY THIS YEAR
YIPPEE-KI-YAY SPECIAL OFFER:

AS A SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT YOU CAN ACCESS OUR EARLY BIRD TICKETS WITH A **20% DISCOUNT DURING THIS WEEK ONLY!**

MAKE SURE TO BOOK EARLY AS THIS SHOW IS LIKELY TO SELL OUT AGAIN (AND MAKES AN EXCELLENT HOLIDAY GIFT IF WE DO SAY SO OURSELVES!)

HEAD TO THE WEBSITE OR BOX OFFICE FOR YOUR CHOSEN VENUE AND USE THE CODE: **SPACEHAMFAN**

BECCLES PUBLIC HALL AND THEATRE

14TH – 17TH
JANUARY 2026

BECCLESPUBLICHALL.COM

NORWICH PUPPET THEATRE

28TH – 31ST
JANUARY 2026

PUPPETTHEATRE.CO.UK

Keep any eye out for our newest show in development...